



**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **Road Accidents: Prevent or Punish**

This bulletin is courtesy of the Association of British Drivers [www.abd.org.uk/](http://www.abd.org.uk/)  
Who drew our attention to the subject matter.....we thank you!

Published in 1969, **Road Accidents: Prevent or Punish?** is one of the most important books ever written about road safety, and should be **compulsory reading for everyone involved in the formulation of road safety policy**. Although it was written nearly thirty-five years ago, the attitudes and prejudices **J.J.Leeming** describes are not only still with us, they have become even more entrenched.

The following extracts should be sufficient to make you read the whole book!

'This book is dedicated to the countless thousands who have died on the roads of the world as a result of the prejudices of a minority, as some reparation and in the faint hope that it may induce some government, somewhere, to begin trying to stop accidents.'

'Strange and incredible as this may seem, I have spent forty years of my life increasing the speed of traffic to reduce accidents, with some success. The book will, therefore, run counter to many strongly held prejudices, and will come to many as a severe shock.'

'...we must have figures. If properly gathered they are facts expressed in numerical form. They must not be rejected because they are inconvenient. If they are rejected, what have we left? Nothing more than dogmatic statement, unsupported by facts, and that is quite valueless, or even harmful...'

'Two men left a public house on the advice of the landlord, who thought that, although they were not actually drunk, they had had enough. He did not think the driver incapable of driving. They went on northwards three or four miles, and came to a cross roads called Warmwell Cross. There the driver shot straight across, paying no attention to a Halt sign. A lorry, passing from east to west, collided with their car, and both men were killed.'

Leeming's investigation into this and several other accidents at the site revealed a **deception in the road layout that was to trap many drivers**. The crossroads was beyond a slight crest and the Halt sign was before the crest (this was in the days before the current Stop and Give Way signs). Although a stop line and Halt marking were painted on the carriageway at the junction itself, the road surface was falling away from approaching drivers, so that the markings were virtually invisible until it was too late to stop. Drivers familiar with the area — including Leeming and his staff — knew where the junction was, so they never had to rely on spotting the markings. **It was strangers who were caught out, sometimes with fatal consequences.**

**The PPP comments.....Until the legislators and the Police are held accountable for their decisions, actions and the consequences there of, they will continue to take the easy, cheap and wrong DECISIONS.**